

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 04954 151056Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSC-01 IO-13 CPR-01 DLOS-09 OES-07 /088 W
-----053746 152155Z /72

R 151020Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9027
INFO USUN NEW YORK 756
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4954

KATHMANDU FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, PDIP, UNGA, CE

SUBJ: REPORT OF NEW SRI LANKA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR
THE UNITED NATIONS

1. SUMMARY: SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE MAY BE REPLACED BY BIYA-
GAMAGE JAYASENA (B.J.) FERNANDO, AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, AS SRI
LANKA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN. INDICATIONS OF
AMERASINGHE'S POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT AS PERM REP HAD BEEN EX-
PECTED. QUESTION OF WHETHER AMERASINGHE WILL REMAIN AS CHAIR-
MAN OF LOS CONFERENCE STILL UNANSWERED. END SUMMARY.

2. DECEMBER 15 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT B.J. FERNANDO IS TO
BE NAMED AS PERM REP TO THE UN. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OFFICIAL DECLINED CONFIRM PRESS REPORT, BUT SAID FERNANDO IS
"GOOD POSSIBILITY."

3. BACKGROUND
FERNANDO WAS A MEMBER OF SRI LANKA'S DELEGATION TO THE 32ND
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UNGA IN SEPTEMBER 1977 AND HAS BEEN A FREQUENT VISITOR TO
WASHINGTON. HE IS 43 YEARS OLD AND IS DESCRIBED AS AN UN-
IMPOSING PERSON, NOT AT ALL DYNAMIC. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL
BUT STAMMERS. A STAUNCH UNP SUPPORTER FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS,
FERNANDO WAS ON THE PARTY'S WORKING COMMITTEE AND IS CON-
SIDERED THE RULING UNITED NATIONAL PARTY'S LAWYER, HAVING
HANDLED LEGAL CASES FOR PRIME MINISTER J.R. JAYEWARDENE,

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT R. PREMADASA, AND OTHERS. HE IS REPORTEDLY PREMADASA'S RIGHT HAND MAN. PREMADASA IS CONSIDERED AS THE FRONT-RUNNER TO BE NEXT PRIME MINISTER WHEN JAYEWARDENE BECOMES PRESIDENT IN FEBRUARY, 1978.

4. FERNANDO GRADUATED FROM ANANDA COLLEGE IN COLOMBO, ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF CEYLON, AND RECEIVED HIS B.SC. DEGREE IN ENGLAND WHERE HE ALSO BECAME A BARRISTER. HE IS MARRIED (WIFE'S NAME SARAJINI) AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN, TWO SONS AND TWO DAUGHTERS. HE IS A BUDDHIST, DRINKS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, AND HAS NO KNOWN DIETARY RESTRICTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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